(c) Government has initiated several steps for prevention and control of pollution and noise levels in metro and mega cities of the country. These include:

- A comprehensive policy for abatement of pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution.
- Effluent and emission standards for various industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
- Control of vehicular pollution through promotion of clean fuels, introduction of stringent emission norms and fuel specifications.
- Notifications of standards for control of noise pollution emanating from various sources such as vehicles, diesel generating sets, fire crackers and loud speakers.
- Promotion of cleaner technologies for control of industrial pollution.
- Management of Municipal and Bio-medical wastes.
- Waste minimisation and utilisation.
- Appropriate siting of industries so as to minimise impact on eco-systems.
- Environmental impact assessment for 30 categories of development projects for minimising the environmental impact.
- Strengthening the monitoring network and institutional capabilities to facilitate and improve enforcement mechanism.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Milk quality standards

1041. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the milk quality standards and the mandatory screening at farmers' level, to ensure in feet ion-free and good quality milk processing and exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has been asked to lay down the quality parameters of milk;

(d) if so, the recommendations of BIS in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRl HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Inter-Ministerial task force on agro marketing

1042. SHRl CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of Agric ilture be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1054, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 2002 and state the status of implementation of the report of Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Agro Marketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRl HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation had convened a National Conference under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister with Ministers dealing with the subject of Agricultural Marketing of all States/ Union Territories Administrations and the concerned Central Government Deparments at New Delhi on 27.9.2002 to discuss the implementation of the reforms measures suggested by the inter-Ministerial Task Force. There was a concensus among all the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations on the need to introduce reforms in the agricultural marketing sector.

With a view to evolve an action programme for the implementation of the reform measures, a Standing Committee of State Ministers and representatives of concerned Central Government Departments/Agencies has been set up on 13.11.2002 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture.

Fruits and vegetable production

1043. SHRl SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a substantial increase **in** the production of fruits and vegetables in the country;

(b) if so, in what ways the fruits and vegetables produced in the country are utilised.

(c) whether any possibility has been explored by Government to increase the export of fruits and vegetables; and